

(check against delivery)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

At the Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 2
High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of MSI

25 September 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday, at the opening plenary, Prime Minister Kan spoke about Japan's efforts to promote sustainable development in SIDS focusing on mitigating the adverse effects of natural disasters and climate change. Today, I would like to contribute to the discussions at this roundtable by elaborating on Japan's cooperation with SIDS in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman,

Pacific SIDS are important partners for Japan, as we are island countries that share the Pacific Ocean. The Prime Minister of Japan and the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) countries have met in Japan every three years since 1997 for the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). On the 16th of October in Tokyo, Foreign Minister Maehara will host the Interim Ministerial Meeting of the PALM. This meeting provides an opportunity to follow-up the Fifth PALM or PALM 5 last year and to start the discussion on the way forward toward the next Sixth PALM in 2012. We are grateful to receive high-level participation from PIF countries at the meeting next month.

In May last year, during PALM 5, Japan announced its commitment to provide a total of 50 billion yen in assistance to Pacific SIDS over the following three years. Of the above amount, 6.8 billion yen was provided to the PIF as part of the Pacific Environment Community Fund (PEC Fund). Currently, project design processes are underway in each country. Japan sincerely hopes the PEC Fund will contribute to the efforts of Pacific SIDS to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has provided various forms of assistance to SIDS in the Caribbean in their efforts to overcome their unique vulnerabilities. For example, Japan contributed to capacity building activities of Caribbean countries vulnerable to hurricanes and the resulting floods, through its technical cooperation program which resulted in the production of hazard maps. Furthermore, through the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund, Japan assists in a south-south cooperation project between the Pacific and Caribbean SIDS, which aims to share knowledge on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.

On 2nd of this month, Japan hosted the second Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference in Tokyo, by inviting foreign ministers from 14 Member States of CARICOM. At the Conference, participants discussed Japan's future cooperation with CARICOM focusing on overcoming vulnerability and promoting human security, the environment and climate change, and assistance for the reconstruction of Haiti. Japan expressed its intention to continue assisting CARICOM countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan is establishing close relationships with Pacific SIDS and CARICOM States at all levels through bilateral dialogues on important issues in various fields including renewable energy and environment issues in addition to multilateral settings in New York.

Japan is also assisting SIDS in other regions while taking appropriate account of their special needs. As islanders, Japan maintains its commitments to the sustainable development of SIDS in consideration of their special needs and priorities.